

VA 1866 Box 0006

A LIST

OF THE

MUSEUMS IN FRANCE.

PREPARED FOR THE USE OF THE

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.



*It is requested that any corrections or additions to the  
following list may be addressed to the Secretary,  
South Kensington Museum,  
London, W.*

LONDON: 1866.



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The following list contains the names of the principal Museums in France. In a general way it gives a clue to their contents, but for a country so rich in institutions of this nature it would require official returns to insure absolute completeness in the list.

None such have been obtained if they are in existence. As far, however, as the enumeration goes it is sufficient for the present purposes of the Museum, for which only it has been drawn up.

France is considered to be better provided with general and local Museums than any other country in Europe. It abounds with materials for such institutions. It is unrivalled in monuments of Mediæval architecture of the boldest and most scientific construction. The great ecclesiastical structures of the North, the Cathedrals of Amiens, Laon, Lisieux, Bayeux, and many others, are culminating examples of the most successful efforts of pointed architecture in the direction of height, and the adjustment of weight by the use of the pinnacle and buttress. Towards the South we have the superb military architecture of the defences of Carcassone. In decorative effect these various structures are equally successful, and hence an enormous accumulation of fragments of details from ruined or repaired buildings, tombs, or other monuments of great value to the student. Then, again, the long Roman occupation of Gaul covered the South and centre up to Treves with important monuments. The largest of these such as the theatre of Orange, and the amphitheatres of Arles and Nismes, the walls of Arles, are more complete than anything of the kind in Italy, or are still Museums in themselves, while such cities as Vienne on the Rhone are so full of fragments that the Roman provincial art of the first, second, or third centuries can be as fully studied there as in Italy. To these should be added the enamels of Limoges so long renowned, and the various kinds of goldsmiths' work which the patronage of Francis the first and the Medici princesses set going at the Renaissance period.

France throughout the Mediæval and Renaissance periods was rich in monastic institutions and feudal residences. From the facility of access to Italy and the frequency of communication, houses of both kinds abounded in precious objects for religious or secular use.

While they are rich with these and many other materials for collection, the French are proverbially neat and scientific in arrangement.

It is accordingly of importance to be able to study the merits as well as to note the defects to be met with in their Museum arrangements.

Special and very careful examinations have been made, by the authority of the Department, into such particulars in the more notable French Museums with a view to perfecting our own.

It is considered too, that by noting what local and particular French collections contain, and the class of objects in which each is richest, much may be done for the completion of similar institutions at home.

It is of great importance that we should know where to apply for casts or reproductions of objects in which our Museums are deficient, as well as how to get materials for furnishing such collections as are required to be of a special character, architectural, textile, ceramic, or whatever it is, to suit the wants of our manufacturing towns where special branches of industry are worked.

The list is, probably, incomplete and much information as to the present state and contents of various Museums here named, remains to be acquired. Any information on this subject will be welcome, and should be addressed to—

The Secretary,  
South Kensington Museum,  
London, W.

South Kensington Museum,  
April 1866.

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Prepared for the use of the South Kensington Museum.

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Aix. Antiquities and very mediocre Pictures.

Angers. Large collection of mediocre Paintings, some Sculpture, and in an upper story, Natural History and a few Antiquities.

Angoulême. Small collection of Natural History.

Amiens. Municipal. Antiquities and Paintings.

Arles. Antiquities.

Avignon. Roman and other Antiquities, and Pictures.  
Founded by Calvet, a native of Avignon.

Avignon. Natural History.

Avranches. Antiquities and Pictures.

Besançon. Objets d'Art and Antiquities, and 400 Paintings.  
Founded by a native named Paris.

Bordeaux. Antiquities, chiefly Roman, and Natural History.

Boulogne. The Town Council. Miscellaneous collection of Sculpture, Medals, Roman Antiquities, Pictures, and Natural History.

Bourges. Antiquities and Curiosities without order or arrangement.

Brest. Models of Ships, Shipheads, etc.

Caen. Natural History.

Caen. Municipal. Collection of Paintings.

Calais. Fine Arts.

Carpentras. Antiquities.

Chartres.

Cherbourg. Municipal. 164 Pictures. Founded by Thomas Henri, a native of the town.

Clermont. Natural History.

Colmar.

Compiègne. Municipal. Founded by M. Vivenel.

Dijon. Municipal. Rich and important Monuments of the middle ages, Royal Tombs, and numerous Paintings.

Dinan. Municipal. Geology and Antiquities of the district.

Douai. Antiquities and Pictures (old Flemish School).

Dreux. Curiosities, some Sculpture, etc.

Evreux. Antiquities.

Grenoble. Natural History.

Grenoble. Large collection of mediocre Paintings.

Havre. Pictures by Troyon, Yvon, Couture, etc.

Langres. Antiquities, Pictures, and a collection of Birds from S. Africa.

Le Mans. Municipal. Natural History and Paintings.

Le Puy. Some mediocre Paintings, some Roman Antiquities, and good collections of the Geology and Mineralogy of the district.

Lille. Municipal? Pictures & Drawings by the old Italian masters, Raphael, Masaccio, Fra Bartolomeo, Michael Angelo, etc. Founded by Chevalier Wicar.

Lyons. Roman Antiquities and several Paintings of celebrated masters, also a small collection of Majolica, Porcelain, Limoges Enamels, and Palissy Ware.

Marseilles. Antiquities and Pictures.

Montpellier. Collection of excellent Paintings. Founded by M. Fabre.

Nancy. Antiquities.

Nancy. Modern Pictures by Isabey, and some relics of Napoleon. Founded by General Drouet.

Nantes. Natural History and fragments of Antiquity. Founded by M. Dubuisson.

Nantes. Paintings. Founded by M. Cacault.

Narbonne. Antiquities and Pictures. Founded by a local Antiquarian Society.

Nismes. Antiquities. Founded by M. Perrot.

Nismes. Antiquities and Pictures.

Orléans. Pictures, Local Antiquities, Carvings in Ivory, Wood, and Stone, Old Furniture, Iron Work, etc.

Paris (Musée d'Artillerie). Supported by the State. One of the finest collections of armour and warlike weapons in the world. Founded 1794. Catalogue, a large and instructive volume sold for 4½ francs.

Paris (Luxembourg). Supported by the State. Pictures and Sculpture. Founded 1818. Catalogue, good.

Paris (the Louvre). Supported by the State. Pictures, Drawings of old masters, Ancient Sculpture, Ancient Bronzes, Assyrian collection, Egyptian collection, Etruscan collection, Renaissance and Moyen age Sculpture, Modern Sculpture, Algerian collection, Naval collection, Historical collection, Sauvageot collection, Ivories, Majolica, Ethnological collection, American

Antiquities. Founded by Napoleon I. 1796. Excellent separate Catalogues published under the present Emperor Napoleon III.

Paris (Jardin des Plantes). Supported by the State. Zoology, Geology, Mineralogy, Botany, Comparative Anatomy, Phrenology and Ethnology. Founded by Louis XIII., 1650. The Zoological part by Louis Phillippe.

Paris (Hôtel des Monnaies). Supported by the State. Large collection of the Coins and Medals of all countries. Founded 1775.

Paris (Hôtel Cluny). Supported by the State. Important collections of Ancient and Medieval Carving, Glass, Pottery, Metal Work, Dresses, Cabinets, Furniture, Gems, etc. Founded by M. du Sommerard, an eminent antiquarian, 1833. Catalogue, very good.

Paris ('Ecole Impériale des Mines). Supported by the State. Extensive collections of Mineralogy, Geology, and Fossil Organic remains. Founded 1783.

Paris ('Ecole de Médecine). Supported by the State. Anatomy and Materia Medica, a collection of Surgical Instruments, etc. Founded by M. Dupuytren, 1776.

Paris ('Ecole Impériale des Beaux Arts). Supported by the State. Architectural Specimens, copies of Wall Paintings, and other Works of Art. Founded between 1820-30.

Paris (Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers). Supported by the State. Industrial collections, Machines and Models, Musical and Optical Instruments, a small collection of Glass and Pottery, an extensive series of Philosophical Instruments and Apparatus, and a collection of Chronometers and Clocks, very interesting in an historical point of view. Founded by Vaucanson, 1802.

Pau. Natural History of the Pyrenees.

Perpignan.

Poitiers. Natural History and Antiquities.

Rennes. Municipal. Pictures.

Rouen. Department of the Seine Inférieure. Supported by voluntary donations. Antiquities and Works of Art of the Middle Ages. Founded by the Department of the Seine Inférieure, 1833-4.

Rouen. Natural History.

Rouen. Municipal. Pictures, attributed to the old Italian masters and others of the modern French schools.

St. Etienne. Specimens of the staple manufactures of the Town, Ribbons, and Gems, also a Mineralogical collection.

Saumur. Antiquities found in the department.

Sevres. Supported by the State. Porcelain from the earliest period of Greek and Etruscan art to the most recent productions of the nations of Europe and Asia, China, Japan, and the East Indies, and many of the rude tribes of America.

Soissons. Antiquities.

Strasbourg. Collection of bad or second-rate Pictures.

Strasbourg. Natural History.

Toulon. Collection of Naval Models.

Toulouse. Municipal. Pictures and Casts, Antiquities, Works of Art of the Middle Ages, and Monuments of the Renaissance. Founded by M. du Mege.

Tours. Collection of nearly 200 Pictures and some Casts.

Troyes. Paintings and Sculptures including some Architectural Fragments.

Vienne. Antique Sculptured and Architectural Fragments found in and about the town.